

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OPORTO 00248 130812Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/066 W

-----102621 141429Z /47

R 121430Z SEP 78
FM AMCONSUL OPORTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1141
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OPORTO 0248

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINTO PO
SUBJECT: THE CENTER DEMOCRATS BUY A NORTHERN NEWSPAPER

1. THE NEWS BROADCASTING CONSORTIUM (CDN) ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 8 ITS ACQUISITION OF THE OPORTO DAILY NEWSPAPER "PREMEIRO DE JANEIRO", THIRD IN NORTHERN PORTUGUESE CIRCULATION. THE PAPER IS THE ONLY ONE OF THE THREE OPORTO DAILIES WITHOUT GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN ITS MANAGEMENT. UNTIL NOW IT WAS ALSO THE ONLY OPORTO PAPER WHICH MAINTAINED A TRADITION OF POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE.

2. THE CDN IS A PORTUGUESE INVESTMENT GROUP WITH STRONG CONNECTIONS TO THE CENTER DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDS). ITS NUCLEUS REPORTEDLY CONSISTS OF CDS PARTY STALWARTS RUI DE OLIVEIRA, MARIO GAIOSO HENRIQUES AND MIGUEL SOUSA E SILVA. THE CDN IS FINANCED BY THE GERMAN KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION, WHICH ALSO FINANCES THE CDS'S INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY (IDL), AND BY BAYER PHARMACEUTICALS. IDL DIRECTOR EUGENIO ANACORETA CORREIA CLAIMS THAT THE CDN HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE IDL, ALTHOUGH HE JOKINGLY ADDED THAT CDN STANDS FOR CENTER DEMOCRATS OF THE NORTH. CORREIA SAID THAT A NUMBER OF CONSERVATIVE JOURNALISTS WOULD DESERT THE SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) CONNECTED

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"JOURNAL DE NOTICIAS," OPORTO'S SECOND DAILY, TO JOIN "PREMEIRO DE JANEIRO." THE NEW EDITOR WILL REPORTEDLY BE DR. JOSE VIERA DE CARVALHO, FORMER MAYOR OF MAIA, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY FROM OPORTO IN 1973 AND CURRENTLY A HISTORY PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OPORTO. CONSULATE SOURCES INDICATE THAT FOLLOWING THE 1974 REVOLUTION, CARVALHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE RIGHT-WING PORTUGUESE LIBERATION ARMY (ELP) AND SERVED EIGHT MONTHS TO

A YEAR IN PRISON.

3. THE ACQUISITION MARKS FURTHER CDS INVOLVEMENT IN THE OPORTO PRESS. EARLIER THIS YEAR THE CDS PLACED PARTY MEMBER LUIS MARGARIDO CORREIA AS DIRECTOR OF OPORTO'S LARGEST PAPER, THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED "O COMMERCIO." CORREIA'S PLACEMENT WAS REPORTEDLY PART OF THE DEAL WHEN THE CDS-PS COALITION WAS FORMED IN JANUARY. THE NOW DEPARTING ADMINISTRATOR OF "PRIMEIRO DE JANEIRO," ALBERTO MENDONCA, BELIEVES THAT CDS INTEREST IN PURCHASING THE PAPER GREW SHARPLY WHEN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION BEGAN TO FOUNDER IN EARLY SUMMER AND IT BEGAN TO APPEAR THE CDS WOULD BE ONCE AGAIN OUT OF GOVERNMENT AND POSSIBLY ALSO OUT OF THE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS IN OPORTO. HARRINGTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ACQUISITION, NEWSPAPERS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OPORTO00248
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780374-0072
Format: TEL
From: OPORTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780977/aaaaclhs.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e7d35b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1468268
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE CENTER DEMOCRATS BUY A NORTHERN NEWSPAPER
TAGS: PINT, PO, PREMEIRO DE JANEIRO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e7d35b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014